

Amdt. dated April 11, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 9, 2005

Serial No. 09/998,370
Docket No. TUC920010103US1
Firm No. 0018.0108

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6-21, 23-38, and 40-51 are in the case. The applicants have studied the office action dated February 9, 2005, and have made the changes believed appropriate to the place the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 5-12, 14, 22-29, 31, 39-46 and 48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of dependent claim 5 as kindly suggested by the Examiner. Claim 18 has been amended to include the recitations of dependent claim 22 as kindly suggested by the Examiner. Claim 35 has been amended to include the recitations of dependent claim 39 as kindly suggested by the Examiner. Claims 5, 22 and 39 have been canceled without prejudice, reserving the right to pursue the subject matter of all the original claims in a continuation application. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from a claim indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the objection to the claims should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that these amendments will not require a new search or raise new issues for consideration by the Examiner. It is submitted that these amendments place the claims in better form for appeal. These amendments were not presented earlier because they were deemed appropriate to advance prosecution after receipt of the latest Office Action. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to enter and consider these amendments after the final rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 13, 15-21, 30, 32-38, 47, 49-51 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Powers et al. U.S. Pat. No. 5,212,785. The applicants respectfully disagree. However, in order to facilitate prosecution, claims 1-4, 13, 15-21, 30, 32-38, 47, 49-51 have been amended (or a claim from which they depend has been amended) to include subject

Amdt. dated April 11, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 9, 2005

Serial No. 09/998,370
Docket No. TUC920010103US1
Firm No. 0018.0108

matter which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

Applicants note that the claims are directed to various combinations of features. It is respectfully submitted that the patentability of each of the allowable claims resides in the combination of features recited in that claim in addition to any features cited by the Examiner in prior or future office actions.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-4, 6-21, 23-38, and 40-51 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have not added any claims. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0449.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7977 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

Dated: April 11, 2005

By:



William K. Konrad
Registration No. 28,868

Please direct all correspondences to:

David Victor
Konrad Raynes & Victor, LLP
315 South Beverly Drive, Ste. 210
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Tel: 310-553-7977
Fax: 310-556-7984